Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-002
Tuesday
5 January 1988

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Cuba

Risquet Interviewed on International Issues

PM041628 Milan L'UNITA in Italian 22 Dec 87 p 7

[Interview with PCC Politburo member Jorge Risquet by Nuccio Ciconte; date, place not given]

[Text] Rome—What significance does Cuba attach to the Washington summit? What opinion regarding the new relations which are becoming established between the United States and the USSR is held by a Latin American country in conflict with its powerful American neighbor for almost 30 years and which is involved, albeit marginally, in the Central American crisis? We put these questions to Jorge Risquet, PCC Politburo member and international relations chief.

"The agreement on the Euromissiles' destruction is a historic event. Previous treaties limited the production of nuclear weapons to a certain ceiling. This time it is different. The accord must be considered not from the quantitative viewpoint (the arsenals still contain a frightening quantity of nuclear weapons capable of destroying the whole of mankind several times over) but from the qualitative viewpoint: For the first time the path to the destruction of nuclear weapons has been taken. What does this mean for the Third World countries? For us it is of supreme importance to link the peace struggle with the development struggle. To overcome the remaining obstacles on the road to disarmament the accord signed by Reagan and Gorbachev needs the support of all the world's peoples, it needs the active support of the Third World countries. This really can be achieved by allocating to development the resources released by disarmament. More and more each day, there is a stifling and intolerable economic situation in the Third World countries. There will be no real peace as long as famine and poverty remain. This is why the peace struggle must be linked with the development struggle and the solution of regional conflicts."

[Ciconte] Regional conflicts were also discussed during the Reagan-Gorbachev meeting. What does this mean for Central America?

[Risquet] I do not know what they said; I will know when I return to Havana. The Soviets always keep us informed. What is certain is that the solution the Latin American countries advocate is based on the Esquipulas agreement—the peace treaty signed by the five Central American presidents. Nicaragua has done its utmost to implement these accords. If the plan were to fail the fault would lie entirely with the Reagan administration. The American Government has always been hostile to these peace accords. Of course a general detente assists a regional detente. However, Reagan is obsessed with the Nicaraguan problem: It would seem easier to make him relinquish all his nuclear weapons than to persuade him to relinquish his counterrevolutionary blueprint for Nicaragua.

[Ciconte] Th foreign debt issue—one very close to Fidel Castro's heart—was discussed in Mexico recently by the eight presidents of the Contadora Group and the Contadora Support Group. What is your opinion in this regard?

[Risquet] It was an excellent meeting. There was a reaffirmation of the support for a peaceful Latin American solution to the Central American crisis—a different concept from that put forward by the United States. There was a very united stance on the foreign debt issue as well, even though the grand union of all debtor countries—to which Cuba aspires—has not yet been achieved. Hitherto, negotiations have been conducted separately. This has deferred the explosion of a crisis, which cannot be prevented unless the foreign debt issue is tackled from the political viewpoint. Everyone declared their agreement on the impossibility of repaying the debts by increasing our peoples' sacrifices. Much emphasis was also placed on the issue of Latin America's economic and political integration—an integration that fully embraces Cuba too. The United States is still trying to isolate Cuba, while Latin America, however, says Cuba is an integral part of Latin America....

[Ciconte] Is there any chance of establishing diplomatic relations between Havana and Washington or will this have to wait until after Reagan?

[Risquet] It depends on the United States, not Cuba. There is the economic blockade, which has lasted almost 30 years, and the Guantanamo naval base on Cuban territory, occupied by force by the Americans for almost a century. Of course, we will not liberate the base by starting a war against the United States. However, we will raise these issues in all bilateral talks with Washington. Another point of conflict is constituted to some extent by the Central American crisis—a conflict which also concerns Latin America as a whole and the United States. We are also in favor of a negotiated solution to the crisis in southern Africa (this is another point of friction between us and the United States). We do not seek tensions; Cuba wants detente.

[Ciconte] We have discussed relations with the United States. What about relations with Gorbachev's USSR? Some observers have identified a certain coolness on Cuba's part toward Gorbachev's restructuring policy....

[Risquet] On the contrary, our relations are improving constantly. All that has been said about restructuring and the process of Cuban "rectification" is completely untrue. Perhaps some people are dreaming, hoping.... Ours are relations between sovereign countries, based on noninterference in internal affairs, friendship, economic relations, and great assistance and solidarity between the Soviet Union and Cuba. What can be said, from an outsider's viewpoint, is that Moscow has embarked on a very dynamic foreign policy. The accords just signed in Washington contain much of the impetus and dynamism of Gorbachev and the Soviet leadership. It is the same

policy of peace and peaceful coexistence Moscow has always pursued. However, the form, the dynamism, the style, and the flexibility in the quest for solutions contributed enormously to the attainment of the accord. In domestic policy restructuring is aimed at regenerating Soviet society. In capitalism the class struggle is the motive force of history; in socialism it is the struggle between old and new. So we see restructuring as a dialectical process in the Soviet Union's social development. Are there [apparent line drop] will prove mistaken and the Soviets will therefore have to backtrack? This is normal. It has happened, and is still happening, in Cuba: We do things that subsequently prove to be mistaken. There is nothing wrong in it. We engage in self-criticism and change what needs to be changed.

Risquet Greets Ethiopian Politburo Member

FL041427 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Amanuel Amde Michael, member of the Politburo of the Workers Party of Ethiopia and vice president of the Council of the State, has arrived in Cuba with his wife (Marta Michael) on an official and friendly visit.

PCC Politburo member Jorge Risquet Valdes received the Ethiopian leader at the Jose Marti Airport. This is the Ethiopian official's third visit to Cuba.

Brazilian Governor Visits Havana Assembly

FL011341 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Mr Carlos Gomes Bezerra, governor of the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso, and his delegation have been received at Havana's provincial assembly offices by its president, Victor Fernandez, and other assembly members.

The distinguished visitor will tour centers of social, scientific, and cultural interest in Havana Province. He is scheduled to stay here until 9 January.

[Begin recording] [Fernandez] In the name of the executive committee of the Provincial Assembly of the People's Government, we cordially welcome you to our offices this morning.

[Gomes Bezerra, in Portuguese with consecutive Spanish translation] The information I have is that, with simple means, you have always achieved progress, had very big achievements in the social, educational, and health areas, as well as others. You have used the great strength that socialism provides. [end recording]

Third ANPP Assembly Continues Deliberations

Las Tunas Reports

FL311721 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1245 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Excerpt] The 1st work day of the second session of the third National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], has ended with a progress report from Las Tunas Province. The detailed report was read by Julian Lopez Hernandez, ANPP president in Las Tunas. It sets out the achievements and deficiencies recorded in the province in the last 10 years. The report also states it will close the year with 97 percent of its economic plan fulfilled. The basic reason for this is the serious effects of the drought in the sugar and agriculture sectors, in addition to objective problems such as breakdowns at the Comandante Paco Cabrera soldered structures plant and to organizational deficiencies.

Deputy Lopez Hernandez said:

[Begin recording] Our province, which was born in late 1976 with the administrative division of the old Oriente Province, was one of the most backward areas in the country. It continues to be so as compared to other regions which started out with a different economic situation. However, this does not diminish the progress made in Las Tunas in almost three decades, particularly the last one. [end recording]

He spoke about education, which achieved a registration rate of 68.8 percent in the double session in elementary schools. He also referred to the completion of important projects and to the beginning of others, such as the furfural plant, the Amancio Rodriguez and Jobabo hospitals, and the first of three sheet metal plants.

Concerning the projects completed in the last 10 years, he stated:

[Begin recording] Commercial production rose from 198.8 to 489.3 million pesos. Investments totalled 1,251,000,000 pesos. This made it possible to start consolidating some basic industries, such as sugar and its byproducts, basic industry, steelworking, and construction materials with the aim of creating the technical-material foundation for the socioeconomic development of the province, and at the same time open new employment sources. [end recording]

A report in response read by (Gerardo Lineas), of the ANPP's committee for local organs, states that the achievements in the past 10 years are evident in education, health, transportation, culture, sports, and commerce and gastronomy. Therefore, the Las Tunas report undoubtedly reflects the transforming effect of the revolution in this eastern province. [passage omitted]

Ministers Speak on Penal Code

FL311515 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Report by Marta Carvajal from Havana's Palace of Conventions]

[Text] The 2d day of ANPP sessions has begun with the discussion of the report on the ANPP's international activity during 1987. This gave rise to two proposals from Deputies Rene Anillo Capote and Levi Farah.

Anillo Capote proposed that the ANPP support the struggle of the Haitian people and condemn their repression. For his part, Deputy Farah asked that a message be sent to the Palestinians voicing the broadest condemnation of the Zionist regime for the crimes it has committed against them. Both proposals were approved.

Then Deputy Juan Escalona [minister of justice] read the bill on modifications to the penal code, which is designed to provide guidelines for a penal policy consistent with the present social, political, and economic conditions of our society.

[Begin Escalona recording] It would seem opportune to point out that one important aspect of the bill is not the result of a recently adopted decision or prompted by current events, but the product of more than 3 years of penal legislation modification studies. When we met then—the comrades of the PCC Central Committee, the Supreme People's Tribunal, the Attorney General's Office, and the Interior and Justice Ministries—to make the first evaluations of penal justice, we concluded it was both desirable and possible to apply certain measures immediately.

This was how, in March 1985, the Council of State adopted an important agreement which established limits to the application of provisional imprisonment. In July of that same year, the council approved a decree-law establishing a procedure to review final sentences handed down by the courts with the aim of correcting possible errors and excesses in the sanctions imposed at any earlier date.

You cannot fail to notice that to be successful in this endeavor, it will be necessary to adopt and tirelessly apply agile and effective mechanisms which will guarantee the collection of the fines levied by the authorities or their agents. We are not going to allow a semblance of resignation in the face of crime. We have proposed the solutions which in our opinion will make justice swifter and more flexible, more in accord with the times we live in. Our population may feel confident; we will not give the slightest sign of weakness. On the contrary, we will be respectful always of the worker who labors and struggles for socialism, and hard with the antisocial and the criminal. [end recording]

Deputy Jose Abrahantes Fernandez, division general and minister of the interior, was the first speaker in the debate on the penal code bill.

[Begin Abrahantes recording] It was a mistake to think that by only imposing more prison sentences and longer terms, crime would beat a retreat. In no case can we suppose severe laws and repressive mechanisms will by themselves solve problems. Although we have always been aware of the need to involve the masses in this battle and of the importance of political work and educational and prevention efforts, we failed to have a fuller understanding of all the material, ideological, and social elements that come into play.

I must note, however, this does not mean we are proposing a reduction of the established sanctions for all crimes; because of their corrupting effects and social gravity, there are cases in which we propose to apply even stiffer penalties.

In sum, we could say in the evolution of this problem in recent years, especially in the capital and other cities, there have been erroneous concepts, deficiencies and limitations in the agencies directly involved with this problem, and the effects of the negative phenomena and tendencies that have developed in our society and which we are confronting with firmness and serenity. We are dealing with the situation without haste but with determination to put an end to it. [end recording]

Castro, Espin on Penal Code

FL011648 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1238 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Following a thorough and detailed analysis, the representatives of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] have approved the modifications to the penal code proposed by the institutional and juridical affairs committee. Matilde Varela was the first deputy to initiate the debate. She said penal sanctions for fraud committed by students and teachers were excessive.

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [Deputy Vilma Espin] The teacher is the person in whose hands we place our society's biggest treasure. The teacher will educate the guardian of our revolution, the one who is going to safeguard, defend this revolution. We are trying to educate our educators so they will never corrupt the generation in their care. I really believe one of the reasons fraud has not been viewed as seriously as it deserves to be is because there were no sufficiently severe sanctions for teachers who violate such a sacred trust. A teacher who teaches how to lie, how to commit fraud, who teaches actions contrary to principles is really acting against everything for which we have trained teachers. If we approve this law today in this form, we

are going to publicize it to the hilt, so that every teacher can learn that this cannot be done, that this is worse than killing a child. The teacher must plant the seed of truth, of honesty. [end recording]

Other topics related to the draft penal code were also discussed. Our colleague, Lucia Gonzalez, will give you more details.

[Begin recording] [Gonzalez] The modifications of the penal code propose prison sentences of 2 to 5 years for any woman who kills her child any time during the 72 hours following birth to hide the fact she had been pregnant. At this time, this crime entails a prison sentence of up to 15 years. This topic was widely discussed, of course, by all the ANPP deputies.

[Unidentified Deputy] I feel that what they are proposing is too light for such a horrible thing, for a mother to kill her child. I would like the committee comrades to explain why they think the draft penal code is excessive.

[Deputy Frank Martinez] This basically happens with girls of 16, 17, or 18. For a number of reasons, principally prejudice, etc., these girls hide their pregnancy. We saw we could establish a more benign penal structure to replace the 15 to 20 years in prison or death. Though she is criminally responsible and has acquired a certain maturity, she has not been properly educated by the family, the parents, and that is why we thought of reducing the sanctions.

[Deputy Espin] Actually, both parents should be penalized. But what happens? In general, the father of the child walks out on the girl. That is, the girl gets pregnant and the man vanishes. The girl is the one who really commits the crime. The father is never penalized in the same way for abandoning the child. This happens to the girls. It is truly horrible. But he also has to be pressured with sanctions. We cannot give up paternal authority; that's what's rational. That is what we have asked for. Of course, it is not the most logical thing for the mother to abandon the child even for this reason. However, we feel that in view of present realities, the most logical thing is to act this way.

[Fidel Castro] Our codes cannot be more advanced than our society. I have only one remaining concern. I am sure many people will find it shocking to see this very narrow range established for this sanction. I don't have even the slightest doubt we should reduce that minimum. I agree we should reduce the minimum from 15 to 2. Perhaps some day it can be 6 months. What I would do is extend the range bit. Perhaps make it 2 to 10; that is, I would bring up the maximum. I would not leave it in such a narrow range. And I repeat, I am aware this is not the ideal approach. But our population still finds it shocking, a very great deal. It might even influence the number of cases; there might be a bit more if, in fact, the sanction is having any influence. It should not be seen as a minimization of the problem.

[Gonzalez] There was much comment and many proposals designed to find the best solution and the most humane one. The discussion ended with the ANPP's unanimous approval of Comrade Fidel's proposal to extend the sentence up to 10 years. [passage omitted]

[Fidel Castro] I believe the fight against crime is fundamentally a question of ethics. It is a question of principles, education, new habits, new values. I have already said it here when speaking about the codes. Codes seem to have been made for societies of the 19th century; for the capitalist society. The individual felt no obligation, no duty. All he was trying to do was survive any way he could.

Codes have been made since Roman times, since feudal and capitalist times. It seems as if society depends not on moral values, ethics, but solely on the fear of punishment. Of course, we have to continue to use those codes, but we must remember a new society has to create a new mentality, a new culture, new values, and the respect of the members of that society for those values.

That is why I said the fight against crime begins in the child care center. That's where those values have to be instilled in children: there and throughout the remainder of his education.

So we were examining the measures we are taking in the capital. There is a clear drop in the crime rate in the capital. A number of measures were undertaken in all areas. We thought of ways to strengthen vigilance. The watchmen were organized. We decided to make a big investment. This even provided a certain social assistance. We looked for retirees, serious people, to give them authority, responsibility, and an additional income. The public became more involved in vigilance.

Great emphasis was laid on something that has not been fully achieved, but the emphasis continues and will continue until the problems of control are solved: the accountings, warehouse and supplies control, the elimination of all those factors that make possible the activity of antisocial elements. That is an area in which we still have a long way to go. [end recording]

The ANPP decided to have the Guantanamo provincial assembly and the Cuban Academy of Sciences report at the next sitting. It was also decided to call 1988 "30th Year of the Revolution."

[Begin Castro recording] I believe if we keep going tirelessly, consistently, we will surmount the difficulties from now until the fourth PCC congress. We will be able to give a very different panorama from the one we had until recently. As I told a comrade who asked me if we were satisfied with this year, there is nothing to be satisfied about, but 1987 was undoubtedly an important year, a historic turning point. We hope 1988 will be better,

I would like to take this opportunity, Severo [ANPP Vice President Severo Aguirre del Cristo], to heartily congratulate you in the name of the Presidency, the Council of State. We would like to wish all fellow deputies an even better 1988. [applause] [end recording]

Officials at Opening of Child Care Centers

FL011808 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2033 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Beginning today, Marianao has a new child care center named "Ninos de Lidice," in honor of the children of that Czechoslovak city who were massacred along with their parents by the fascist hordes. Fernando Vecino Alegret, member of the PCC Central Committee, said at the inauguration the daring goal of building 50 child care centers had been exceeded with mass methods.

The "Relevos del 2000" child care center was also inaugurated today in El Cerro. Jose Ramon Fernandez, alternate member of the PCC Politburo, and Jorge Lezcano, first party secretary in Havana City Province, were present at the opening. Project foreman Silvia Luperon, the only woman working in that capacity in the capital, hailed the effort of the minibrigade workers who took part in the center's construction.

Pedro Chavez, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Provincial Assembly of the People's Government in Havana City, was at hand in Arroyo Naranjo for the inauguration of the "Pequenos Titanes" child care center. Juan Herrera Machado, minister of the sugar industry, said the project justifies the party's line to push social tasks with the support of the masses. "Pequenos Titanes" opened with a registration of 192 children, which is close to its total capacity of 210. Workers from the Vitalio Acuna foundry, concrete and terrazzo enterprise, Havana's miscellaneous crops enterprise, and El Tamarindo social minibrigade, among others, participated in the execution of the project.

Design Mistakes in Nickel Plant Corrected

FL021517 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Text] The process to rectify design mistakes is proceeding with satisfactory results in Moa. These mistakes affected the start-up of the Commander Che Guevara factory, being built with Soviet cooperation. The new plant costing more than 700 million pesos, will produce 30,000 metric tons of nickel, in addition to cobalt, for export each year. At this time, the eighth reduction furnace is being completed as is a preliminary gasification system that will guarantee the stability of the first line of the complex. Construction of the second and third stages will begin in 1988, including furnaces nos. 8 to 16. This will be the result of the workers' commitment.

Haiti

64 Candidates Withdraw from 17 Jan Elections

PA041938 Paris AFP in Spanish 1801 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 4 Jan (AFP)—Sixty-four candidates running for deputy and senator in the upcoming Haitian legislative elections scheduled for 17 January today announced they are withdrawing from the race to protest the National Government Council (CNG) headed by General Henri Namphy.

The candidates said the principle and the conditions of the elections "were violated in advance in domestic as well as international public opinion." The majority of the candidates who have withdrawn from the race are members of the National Concerted Action Front (FNC), a center-leftist coalition headed by Gerard Gourgue, and the National Agricultural and Industrial Party (PAIN), headed by leftist Louis Dejoie.

In their document, the candidates also said they are acting "within the same framework" as the leaders of the four major political parties and the top contenders in the presidential race, who are acting within the framework of the Committee for Democratic Understanding: Marc Bazin, of the centrist Movement for the Implementation of Democracy in Haiti (MIDH); Sylvio Claude, of the Christian Democratic Party (PDCH); Louis Dejoie; and Gerard Gourgue.

Meanwhile, approximately 100 political, labor, professional, social, and religious organizations today issued a document announcing that as of now they consider "any election organized under the leadership of the CNG to be null."

The organizations which signed the "document of the Haitian people" said the Army's first duty is to the people and it must "guarantee public order." The soldiers have sworn allegiance to the Constitution and "they belong to the nation."

The approximately 100 organizations also demanded the reestablishment of the former Independent Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) arbitrarily removed by the CNG on 29 November.

They also demanded the establishment of a new provisional government "without ties to the dictatorship and capable of guaranteeing free and honest elections."

Meanwhile, Radio Haiti Inter, a private station, today reported former CEP President Dr Ernest Mirville could not travel abroad for health care because the authorities seized his passport. The same source added a similar action was taken against Haitian political leader Dr Turneb Delpe, who is in charge of the Haitian National Progressive Democratic Party.

Six presidential candidates, who were accepted by the previous CEP, have so far refused to participate in the 17 January elections under CNG direction.

They are Marc Bazin, Sylvio Claude, Louis Dejoie, Gerard Gourgue, Thomas Desulme, and Rene Theodore.

Others, who had been accepted by the previous CEP, resubmitted their candidacies, such as Leslie Manigat, Gregoire Eugene, and Hubert de Ronceray.

Others who resubmitted their candidacies are Lamartiniere Honorat, Dumas J Arnold, and Dieuveuil Joseph.

Finally, another six candidates, rejected by the previous CEP because of their ties with the dictatorship, presented their candidacies again.

It was also known several people were beaten up when they were arrested in Gonaives, 152 km southwest of the capital, in retaliation for an attack against a soldier on 1 January, local correspondent Edgard Bruno told AFP.

Two of them had to be hospitalized after their release from custody.

Civilian Organizations Issue Manifesto

FL042119 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Close to 50 political, humanitarian, religious, and socioprofessional organizations have issued a message entitled Manifesto of the Haitian People in Favor of Democracy Following the Massacre of 29 November 1987.

This document was delivered to the press at the end of December and is signed by, among others, Conacom [National Committee of the Congress of Democratic Movements]; BIP, Patriotic Unitarian Bloc; Autonomous Central of Haitian Workers [CATH]; CATH-/CLAT [CATH/Latin American Central Organization of Workers]; FOS [Federation of Workers Trade Unions]; Federation of Protestant Schools of Haiti; Frala [Fraternity of Committed Laymen]; Movelh [Volunteer Movement for Free and Honest Elections]; and so forth. These organizations ask the Haitian people to unite and to organize in order to confront and triumph over the forces of darkness and to finally achieve the democracy of which it dreams.

These organizations declare invalid any election held under the current CNG and demand a return to constitutional legitimacy by means of the reconstitution of the dismissed CEP. The signers of the message also ask the Haitian Armed Forces to prevent a genocide of the Haitian people. Lastly, they demand that a new provisional government with no connections to the macoute dictatorship be formed.

They invite all political parties and organizations, as well as the Haitian communities abroad, to unite their efforts to block the path to antinational, macoute reactionaries.

The message also reaffirms the validity of the popular demands and the obligation on the part of any new government to give those demands absolute priority.

In conclusion, these organizations invite the governments of friendly countries, the democratic institutions of the entire world, and all international authorities and organizations, to support, within respect for national sovereignty, any and all initiatives by the Haitian people in their struggle for democracy, peace, social justice, and economic development.

Here is the preamble to this manifesto, which is signed by 25 organizations:

Concerned by the crisis threatening the Haitian nation today, the civilian society, worried about its future and aware of its responsibility, wishes to unite and propose a concerted solution to this crisis. It is in this spirit that institutions and organizations representative of diverse sectors of this civilian society have taken the initiative to join and sign the manifesto in favor of democracy following the 29 November massacre. These are religious institutions, both Catholic and Protestant; socioprofessional associations; organizations for the defense of human rights; union, workers, and peasants' organizations; youth groups and groups of committed laymen; and the volunteer movement for free and honest elections.

According to the preamble, this initiative is already supported by many groups, associations, and organizations from both the provinces and the capital, which have already signed the manifesto. Some of them are neighborhood committees; peasants groups; other unions, human rights organizations, and groups of young people, Christians, and committed laymen; and the Veteran Haitian Servicemen's Association.

The signers invite all other institutions and all other sectors making up the Haitian nation who are devoted to the Constitution and to democracy to come and join them and sign the manifesto, so as to reinforce this initiative on the part of the civilian society, which wishes to assume its responsibility in the face of the danger threatening us all.

There will be a news conference to further explain the import and the objectives of this initiative tomorrow, 5 January.

Communal Elections Postponed Until 31 Jan

FL042055 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Today, 4 January, is the deadline for filing candidacies for the mid-January elections. [passage omitted]

However, because of the difficulties encountered by the members of the CEP, the elections for members of CASEC's [Administrative Councils for the Communal Sections] scheduled for 17 January under the CNG's electoral calendar have been postponed until 31 January 1988.

Henri Namphy Independence Day Speech

FL041550 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1514 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Speech by CNG President Henri Namphy marking Haitian Independence Day at the National Palace in Port-au-Prince on 1 January—live]

[Text] Long live the Haitian nation, united forevermore!

This expression of best wishes represents the path on which the CNG had intended to set the country with the support of the nation's sons. Haiti is a country whose strength has been sapped by century-old quarrels. It is a nation in which passion easily pushes reason into the background; a Fatherland in which compromise has never prevailed.

On this 1 January 1988, despite the occasional blunders that have occurred and despite all the misunderstandings—intentionally fostered misunderstandings—we reaffirm our faith in that free and independent Haiti which must not die; and we express our profound conviction that, through unity, the worst can be avoided.

People of Haiti: The worst is not inevitable. And a policy of assuming the worst begets only disaster.

Today more than ever, the national and international political juncture makes national unity a requirement for survival. This unity is possible if differences, disagreement, and even opposition are respected. A concensus, be it minimal, can be reached and can bear auspicious fruit if it is based on love for the Fatherland, on concern that the people be allowed to express their sovereignty and on a desire as profound as it is sincere to see the Haitian people uplifted.

In this connection, no political sector should claim a monopoly on patriotism; nor should it claim, thinking it has such a monopoly, the exclusive right to participate in public life. The unity there is still time to seek is also constructed through struggle but this struggle must be waged with respect for the rules of political games that are as democratic as possible without deteriorating into fratracidal confrontations.

Remember power is not in itself an achievement. It is, rather, a means for providing better service. Thus, there is still time to reach the historic compromise which should have already been reached a few months ago. To reach this compromise, following the period of euphoric illusions, sorcerers' apprentices, and the rude awakening, this New Year must introduce a time of political realism based on a pragmatic analysis of the characteristics of Haiti's situation, specific (?objectives), and on the methods needed to attain these goals while avoiding falling into puerile daydreaming or cruel cynicism that could send us back to square one.

We Haitians—the governed and those governing—have learned through our own painful experience the woes to which excessive escalation can lead. We who are citizens of this country know what excessive radicalization begets when it occurs in a situation created by a median path.

Ladies and gentlemen political leaders: The position you occupy, like the positions to which you aspire, justifies our inviting you this morning to join us in commemorating this 184th anniversary of our independence. It was our hope that this gathering to celebrate the nation's anniversary will offer the entire Haitian people an image of hope at the beginning of a year which will be decisive—the image of representatives from different political sectors making contact, paying homage to the fatherland.

It is up to all of us to work to make this image a reality, not just a bit of trompe l'oeil, (?but rather) the symbol of a will to work together to improve the well-being of the nation.

Representatives of the churches: The moral and spiritual authority with which you are vested and the place you occupy in our society lend particular weight to the words of pacification, reconciliation, and of the hope you surely will not fail to convey to the Haitian people on this worldwide day of peace which most auspiciously coincides with our national holiday. May heaven hear the fervent prayers for the salvation of the common fatherland addressed to it by the faithful assembled around you.

Ladies and gentlemen representatives of the state's major organizations: The past year laid bare the weaknesses of the country's institutional structures. May your efforts to correct these deficiencies be ever more successful so in the future, after these difficult times, you will have the satisfaction of deserving well your country.

Members of the Haitian Armed Forces: For almost 2 years you have constituted the axis around which the institutions of our Republic have revolved. In 1988, the nation will have great need of you. Keep in mind the ideal of our forefathers, so the people's army, drawn from among the people, will remain, as always, in the service of that people.

Chiefs of the diplomatic missions: The CNG sincerely wishes you successful work in 1988 in this hospitable land of Haiti. You are in a position of being privileged observers. Haiti expects friendly countries which care about their independence and sovereignty to show it the same respect and spirit of comprehension they show

other countries. Once again, Haiti firmly condemns what is appropriately called the hierarchical treatment imposed on small countries in international relations.

Dear fellow citizens: A look back over the past year shows us failures and disappointments but it also reveals progress. We must not forget where we started from nor under what conditions we had to strive to make progress. A look forward at the year just beginning allows us to catch a glimpse of future political difficulties and economic constraints. More than ever, we will have to count on ourselves, our own resources, and set national solidarity into motion. We must more than ever avoid compromising the training of our youth and imperiling our parents' livelihood.

To each and every one, you who together constitute the Haitian people, the CNG addresses its best wishes for a better year, a more successful year, a really good year.

A country divided cannot but perish. In order for the Haitian nation to live long, it must rediscover its unity. And in order for unity to again bind the sons of the fatherland, love of country must transcend all other considerations.

Finally, in order for Haiti to have a happy future, we must say and mean from the heart the patriotic cry: Long live the Haitian nation forever united!

Thank you.

Rejected Candidates Invited to Ceremony
FL042205 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Excerpts] All Haitian political leaders—presidential candidates and party heads—were invited by the CNG to attend the ceremony held Friday morning at the National Palace on the occasion of the 184th anniversary of Haitian independence.

This was the first invitation of its kind to be issued since General Namphy came to power on 7 February 1986, following the fall of the Jean-Claude Duvalier regime. [passage omitted]

It was also reported that almost all of the 12 figures connected with the former regime whose candidacies were constitutionally rejected by the former CEP were also invited. This same report said this initiative was an attempt to arrive at a national dialogue to solve Haiti's crisis. The invitation to all Haitian presidential candidates and political party leaders to attend this ceremony was issued by the CNG in full.

Military 'Pressure' Reported in Gonaives
FL042229 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] As you know, the year 1988 started badly in Gonaives. It began with clashes between civilians and members of the Armed Forces there. According to our correspondent, 2 people were wounded and some 20 others arrested during the clashes and later released. The incident occurred on 1 January following an altercation between a civilian and a member of the Armed Forces. A soldier, intervening in a vehement argument between two mechanics, and was disarmed by one of the civilians. This led to energetic and immediate intervention by a group of soldiers. There were arrests made and people beaten during the incident. Let's listen to (Edgard Bruno) on the scene in Gonaives.

[(Bruno), speaking in Creole] The operations of the Departmental Electoral Office [BED] for the Department of the Artibonite are coming along very slowly. Up to the present, despite all the time people have had to file for candidacy for the 17 January elections, there is not a single candidate for magistrate in Gonaives.

Ten people have filed to run for deputy and only five for senator for the entire Department of the Artibonite.

Who are these candidates? What electoral district are they running for office in? There are no answers to these questions. The BED is not giving out any information on this matter. Everything remains a secret. The BED/Artibonite has received orders from above to not give the press any information on the identity of any candidates at this time. Nevertheless, a source close to the BED told us no one in Gonaives has as yet filed candidacy either for magistrate, deputy, or senator. The same source added that most of the people who have filed candidacies are former Duvalierists. The democratic sector in Gonaives is remaining aloof from all electoral activity.

We point out most of the people running for office in the 29 November elections are no longer in Gonaives. Some of them have even left Haiti.

The BED/Artibonite is operating in apparent openness. Indeed, we say apparent openness because in reality, everything is secret. It is very difficult for anyone to obtain information. The arguments observed at the BED/Artibonite lead many observers to believe it is going to be very difficult for the press to obtain information as to what goes at the BED to pass on to the public.

In connection with the incident in Gonaives last Friday, 1 January, in which a civilian disarmed a member of the Armed Forces, the Haitian Army has recovered the weapon. The incident in question caused military men dressed in green to enter the (Dekao) area, at the entrance to the town of Gonaives. They arrested and

mistreated many people—more than 20—beating them with rifle butts and clubs. Among these people were the justice of the peace in Gonaives and a Radio Independence journalist.

The weapon in question was only a Colt 38 revolver. There were no rifles involved, as the Army had given to understand.

The arrested citizens have been released. However, there was a heavy, and rough, military presence in (Dekao) over the entire weekend. The military went into action at the slightest pretext. They beat people indiscriminately with clubs. They also hit people any old way with their rifle butts.

This military pressure seemed to be be on the verge of spreading throughout Gonaives, because in several parts of Gonaives, especially yesterday, Sunday, the military were patrolling with weapons in hand, furious, like soldiers going to war. This applied to both military dressed in olive green and military in civilian clothing.

Because of this military pressure, many young people who had left Gonaives before and during 29 November cannot as yet return home. They learned from where they are now about what was going on and [words indistinct] that there was military pressure being exerted in Gonaives. Particularly, there were many rumors circulating over the weekend to the effect that military repression might begin anew in Gonaives at any moment.

Presidency Issues Communique on Economy

PA040510 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0130 GMT 4 Jan 88

["Text" of 3 January communique issued by Presidency of the Republic]

[Text] As the result of the signing of the economic solidarity pact by the representatives of all of society sectors on 15 December, several actions were taken to rechannel the economy through a more just and balanced development by gradually but firmly lowering inflation during the year's first 2 months. This will be possible if each of the signatories of the pact make good their pledges in this direction.

The most important steps in the fulfillment of the economic solidarity pact include:

1. The agreed upon establishment of the most important prices and rates of the public sector, prices of staples, and general minimum salaries. The latter will be raised by 15 percent as of 16 December 1987, and 20 percent as of January 1988 by agreement of the sectors forming the National Minimum Salaries Committee. The salaries subjected to the collective contract system agreed upon by the parties were also raised by 15 percent effective 16 December last year. From now on, these salaries will be subjected to revisions of the system, to the raises determined by the contracting parties, and to the expiration of the various collective contracts.

2. The federal government, through SECOFI [Commerce and Industrial Development Secretariat], put into operation with special effort a program to control and moderate existing prices, particularly staples, by severely censuring those who violate price control regulations. SECOFI has effected and will continue to effect, with the country's business sector, an intense effort to ensure that the latter agree to moderate price raises and, in some cases, give discounts.

3. SECOFI also designed and implemented a supply policy that will prevent merchandise shortages and rationing, by even importing products that are in short supply. The most important agreements include those reached with the stores carrying automotive and spare parts, crackers, bread, canned food, glass containers, toothpaste, soaps and detergents, refreshments and beers, toilet paper, face tissue, diapers, cardboard products and copybooks, transportation, medicines, cigarettes, and self-service items. The latter firmly backed the struggle against inflation. The representatives of this industry said they will demand, as they have been demanding, moderate prices from their suppliers.

4. As for commercial policy, as it has already been reported, the general import tax rate was reformed as of 16 December 1987, thus moving forward in the process to substitute tariff permits, adjusting these permits to a tariff between 20 and 40 percent. Merchandise exempted from this tax and those subjected to the payment of 10, 15, and 20 percent were specified. Preliminary import permits also continue in force only for agricultural products harmful to health and firearms. Similarly, it was agreed to eliminate the export tax, to take the necessary measures to prevent the export of some products from causing domestic shortages, and supporting the producers of these products. The competitiveness of national productivity will be supported by promoting the flow of merchandise through highways, ports, and customs. To complement this, the commercial open-door policy was adjusted to the controlled exchange rate as of 14 December 1987. This rate was placed on a level suitable to protect the national economy and keep the balance of payment strong, simultaneously decreasing inflation. [figures as heard].

6.[No number 5, as heard] Guaranteed prices for agricultural products will continue to be a government priority goal, and the country's peasant sector will be adequately paid by establishing prices in a timely manner, thus guaranteeing the feasibility of agricultural activities.

7. Referring to public revenues, it is reasserted that prices and tariffs in the public sector will remain unchanged during January and February 1988, according to the pact. Beginning in March, the prices and tariffs will be gradually adjusted exclusively to the levels of a scheduled monthly inflation. A thorough work will be carried out with the states' representatives so they may exert themselves to increase revenues. Finance authorities will step up the fight against tax evasion and implement the necessary measures to simplify fiscal procedures as much as possible. The Chambers of Deputies and Senators approved the initiative for the federation's revenue law, including the modifications proposed by the Chamber of Deputies' Finance Commission, which are based on their viewpoints.

8. Specifically referring to the federation's budget expenditures, the Chamber of Deputies approved modifications to adjust them to the pact's goals and will continue to implement structural adjustments to public expenditures, which have efficiently helped improve public finances during this administration. Limits were established for nominal expenditures, decreasing the budget's overall expenditures and investments and abolishing subsidies of doubtful economic and social justifications. The expenditures for social priorities in education, health, ecology, and administration of justice, however, were taken into consideration.

Today, 4 January, the secretariat of the federation's comptroller general will issue a presidential decree of austerity, and all government sectors must adjust themselves to this decree. Strict fines will be imposed on public employees who do not rigorously abide by the expenditures and schedules, or do not follow strict budget discipline. The federation's Secretariat of Planning and Budget and the Comptroller General's Office

also have approved guidelines for the public sector's expenditures. The federation's organizations also will be urged to actively participate in the implementation of the economic and social pact by reducing their expenditures on a local level, particularly during the 1st half of the year.

9. It was agreed to expand and quickly implement the program to decentralize public enterprises, the specific decisions about the sale and liquidation of public organizations, fusions, and transfers. Reports will be issued to the public beginning in the 1st week of 1988, as the decentralization process is implemented in each case. This continues and accelerates the policy of structural changes begun in the current 6-year period, which has already reported important results by giving a new dimension to the public sector and withholding only the organizations of a strategic and priority nature.

PAN, PRT Deputies Explain Front Against Pact

PA021707 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 26 Dec 87 p 4

[Text] PAN [National Action Party] and PRT [Revolutionary Workers Party] representatives yesterday pointed out that the establishment of a national front against the economic solidarity pact does not aim to create a left-wing front or an instrument for the 1988 elections. The front will provide the citizens with an effective channel to show their rejection of an agreement reached by a few and endorsed by the betrayal of Fidel Velasquez [secretary general of the Confederation of Mexican Workers].

The representatives said that regardless of the ideology of the front supporters, the important thing is "that we unite by leaving aside personal and factional interests to fight this aggression against the Mexican people, which involves the implementation of the ill-named economic solidarity pact." PAN Deputy Jesus Gonzalez Schmall and PRT deputy Ricardo Pascoe made statements to this effect.

Pascoe said the front is important because all Mexicans who wish to may participate in it. In other words, he pointed out, one need not be a member of a political party or of certain organizations to participate in the front.

"We do not aim to start an electoral, doctrinaire struggle; we want an instrument enabling us to show the citizens' rejection of a pact that is literally calling on a majority of Mexicans to make greater sacrifices and giving a free hand to speculators."

Pascoe added that the struggle seeks to show the government and leaders such as Fidel Velasquez, who is again betraying the people he claims to represent, that "[the pact] is only a mechanism to allow the enrichment of a political and economic minority and that this is so despite the cynical statements to the contrary by the government, its parties, and associated organizations."

PAN's Gonzalez said participants are aware of the front's ideological diversity and realize each organization and party can preserve its independence.

He added: "We aim to unite in a struggle against arbitrary decisionmaking. Front participants clearly know the front was not created to allow anyone to take advantage of others; it seeks to force the government to reverse the ill-named economic solidarity pact. It is acknowledged that the front has no electoral objectives. This is because the interests of millions of Mexicans are at stake; these people are further afflicted by the measures of a pact approved by the government and its accomplices even in violation of the spirit of constitutional principles."

Paper on Pressure To Reduce Debt Payments

PA042055 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 29 Dec 87 p 3

[Unattributed editorial]

[Text] Growing social support to reduce payments on the foreign debt as a means to fight the budget deficit and reduce inflation has just found a new and significant source of support from a resolution issued by the Chamber of Deputies demanding that the chief executive renegotiate the service on the debt. Preceding this document, 109 PRI deputies of the Chamber of Deputies Development and Industrial Patrimony Commission presented a document last Saturday in which the tricolor party supports an old demand of the opposition despite the disapproval of certain PRI legislators. Very contrasting sectors such as the Business Coordinating Council, the PMS [Mexican Socialist Party], Canacintra [National Association of the Processing Industry], the labor sector, and PRI and opposition deputies are advocating a reduction on foreign debt payments.

In these 5 years, Miguel de la Madrid's government has always been reluctant to adopt radical measures regarding the debt; in fact, even during situations as critical as those posed by the 1985 earthquake and the 1986 drop in petroleum prices, it preferred to continue honoring payments on the debt rather than suspending payments. This is the first time in these 5 years, however, that there is such broad support within society for a suspension. The executive branch cannot overlook this, because it could risk losing legitimacy and social support in the implementation of its economic program.

The new parliamentarian proposal contains certain aspects allowing us to understand why many of the goals specified in the Revenues Law and Expenditures Budget for 1988 were adopted. For example, it calls for a reduction in the financial deficit from 18.5 to 9.9 percent of GNP when planned budget cuts are much smaller than

that figure. [as published] The proposal could also provide insight as to what the authorities will do in early March if they really want to stop inflation to the extent proposed in the solidarity pact and the budget.

All this is taking place not only during a critical moment of our economic life but also—and the importance of this should not be played down—when conditions to make radical changes in the renegotiation process are maturing abroad; these changes will inevitably take place in 1988. This could be a valid option to ensure that the "bitter and painful" measures announced on 15 December are not that bitter and painful, and that the cost is equitably distributed.

Briefs

1987 Exports

As of September, the country's accrued exports had grown 34.3 percent, and the country's revenues were $4 billion greater than the same period last year. The brokerage firm Probursa has reported that although imports increased from 70 to 76.1 percent, a surplus current account of nearly $4.5 billion has been estimated. It has also been reported that the inflation rate at the end of the year is 140 percent. [Summary] *[Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 29 Dec 87 p 1 Section 3 PA]*

Conasupo 1987 Income

Conasupo's [National Company for Basic Commodities] marketing income for 1987 was 1.1 billion pesos. Because of this income, this parastate enterprise and its six subsidiaries did not require public financing this year. In addition, Conasupo fulfilled all its programs for the period. This income will permit the enterprise to increase its capital, make its supply mechanisms more efficient, and increase production of all of the products handled. [Summary] *[Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 29 Dec 87 p 1 PA]*

Costa Rica

Verification Commission Delegation Arrives

PA042130 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1616 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] San Jose, 4 Jan (EFE-ACAN)—An "ad hoc" mission of the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission (CIVS), which was established by the framework of the Esquipulas II agreement, arrived today in San Jose. This is the first leg of a tour through Central America.

The delegation arrived from Panama aboard an airplane of that country's Air Force. It is composed of representatives from the OAS, the United Nations, and the Contadora and Support Groups.

The 10 delegates will meet here today with political and trade union leaders, members of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, government officials, and members of the Inter-American Human Rights Committee and Costa Rica's National Reconciliation Commission. They will travel tomorrow to Managua.

The delegation seeks to make an "on-site" evaluation of the advances in the peace process in Central America. It will draft a report to be submitted to the CIVS, which will meet in Panama on 12 January with all the foreign ministers of the area.

A report will be prepared during this last meeting and will be presented to the presidents of the area who are to meet in San Jose on 15 January.

El Salvador

Venceremos Airs FMLN Year-End Message

PA011935 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 1 Jan 88

["Year-end message" issued by the FMLN General Command in "El Salvador" on 31 December]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The signing of the Esquipulas II agreement by the five Central American presidents was a blow to the U.S. Administration's warmongering plans. With the signing of this agreement, Napoleon Duarte had hoped to cut logistical supplies to the FMLN and to isolate it internationally. The FMLN does not depend on foreign aid to conduct its revolutionary warfare. Moreover, the Esquipulas II agreement did not diminish the FMLN-FDR's international recognition or effectiveness but instead widened them. [passage omitted]

Differences between the Armed Forces and the Duarte government have also increased. The removal of Colonel Carlos Lopez Nuila as deputy public security minister is a sign that Duarte lost what little he had over the Armed Forces. The speech by General Juan Rafael Bustillo expressed the contradictions between the Armed Forces and the government. It also expressed the resentment Armed Forces commanders feel at the imposition by U.S. advisers of a counterinsurgency strategy that has only brought defeat. Within this framework of differences and blunders, the dispute pitting the Salvadoran oligarchy against the U.S. Pentagon and State Department, as well as against the Christian Democratic Party for control over the Armed Forces—which are still the center of power—heightens a crisis that points to a power vacuum. [passage omitted]

Because the popular movement has shown its strength, the government and the Armed Forces have been forced to go from selective, covert repression to open, official, direct, and widespread repression. In military terms, our experienced guerrilla and militia forces subjected Duarte's troops and paramilitary forces to a devastating war of attrition. We killed and wounded over 8,000. These casualties include 220 officers, NCO's, and technicians [tecnicos]. We conducted 317 ambushes. The ambush became the most effective tactic in the war of attrition against the enemy. We seized 426 weapons. We destroyed or damaged 23 aircraft. We destroyed or damaged 225 trucks and tanks. We conducted two large-scale operations against the garrisons of the 4th Infantry Brigade in Chalatenango and Military Detachment No 4 in Morazan. We held seven transportation stoppages. We greatly sabotaged the regime's war economy.

These figures point to what was a dramatic year for the Armed Forces. The results are seen in the high number of desertions, in the reduction in the number of troops in each battalion, in the inability to increase its troops, and in a rising number of acts of insubordination. Moreover, the results are seen in the moral decay and mental imbalance of troops and officers. The clearest indication of the soldiers' condition is their tossing of grenades at public demonstrations and civilian homes. All this accumulated attrition will be compounded by the impact of our operations, which will never end. Together with economic and political destabilization, guerrilla actions in vital zones, the people's struggle, and increased differences within the Armed Forces, these operations will cause a strategic crisis that will not take long to explode, with far-reaching implications. [passage omitted]

The revolutionary war and the people's struggle, led by the FMLN, have defeated the counterinsurgency plan and opened new arenas for the people's struggle. This is what has put us on the threshold of victory. To achieve the integration of the struggle, the FMLN made the most of its creative capabilities. We waged strategic battles in the dialogue and negotiations and in the diplomatic arena. We have obtained greater international recognition as a powerful force as a result of the consolidation between the FMLN and the FDR. The FMLN has become an emerging power in El Salvador that sides with the people in the struggle in the streets. In tactical and strategic arenas, in political and military terms, we are

rallying around one single policy and one single banner, thanks to the joint effort of thousands of cadres and fighters all over the country and abroad.

As 1987 comes to an end, we can say that all efforts made this year to become part of the people, increase our guerrilla and militia forces, better equip our forces, employ new tactics, and use homemade weapons have achieved the desired goals. No effort, no sacrifice, and no single drop of blood heroically shed by our fighters and people have been in vain. We have kept our commitments.

As 1987 comes to an end, we rejoice in the strengthening of our FDR brothers' political activities. With them, the struggle becomes more complete. Our fronts' capabilities are increased as the legitimate expression of the vanguard of the Salvadoran people.

To the Armed Forces soldiers, NCO's, and officers, we reiterate that we do not regard you as our enemies, because you are Salvadorans, too, and you are being used by U.S. imperialism and the Army High Command traitors. We urge you to joint us in defending the Salvadoran people's interests. We urge you to join us in facing the common enemy—Yankee intervention—so as to avoid greater sacrifices from our people and to rescue our national sovereignty. [passage omitted]

We are prepared for victory. The struggle during the year that is about to begin will require that we use our forces and capabilities to the utmost. We struggle to win. A people like ours deserve victory. We will not fail them. Revolution or death, we will win!

[Signed] FMLN General Command

Commander Shafik Jorge Handal, Leonel Gonzalez, Ferman Cienfuegos, Joaquin Villalobos, and Roberto Roca

31 December 1987, El Salvador, Central America

Summary of 1987 FMLN Military Actions

PA312023 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] In 1987 the FMLN inflicted 8,865 casualties, including dead or wounded, on the puppet troops. We repeat: 8,865 casualties, including dead or wounded, is the result of our army's actions in 1 year. We repeat: The FMLN inflicted 8,865 casualties on the Salvadoran Army, including colonels, majors, lieutenants, and pilots. The casualties include 63 officers and 157 NCO's [word indistinct].

In addition, the FMLN seized 376 rifles in 1987. We repeat: The FMLN seized 376 rifles. The FMLN also seized 50 support weapons from the Armed Forces. The FMLN seized 82,244 cartridges during 1987. We repeat: 82,244 cartridges.

The FMLN destroyed 8 aircraft and damaged 15 others. In 1987 our units carried out 347 ambushes against military vehicles on the country's main roads and destroyed 7 armored tanks and 218 military transportation trucks.

The FMLN inflicted 8,865 casualties during the occupation and annihilation of the 4th Infantry Brigade Headquarters, the attack on San Francisco Gotera, ambushes, attacks on enemy barracks, ambushes on the main roads of [words indistinct], and during enemy operations in areas controlled by us. We inflicted 8,865 casualties in 1 year of intense guerrilla activity.

In 1987 the FMLN carried out [words indistinct] and the country's main cities.

During 1987—despite enemy efforts to prevent it—the FMLN concentrated its forces and dealt harsh blows on the dictatorship, such as the occupation and destruction of the 4th Infantry Brigade in Chalatenango, in which we inflicted hundreds of casualties, including the death of one of the U.S. advisers who lead the war against our people. We also recall the attack on the San Francisco Gotera garrison, [words indistinct] in Morazan Department.

During 1987 [words indistinct] simultaneous sabotage operations throughout the country against energy substations and high-tension towers [words indistinct].

In 1987 the FMLN carried out nationwide sabotage of [words indistinct] that led the regime to an imbalance in its military budget. In 1987 we inflicted [2-second break in reception] on the government's war economy. This year we caused economic losses of 219 million colones, which include energy sabotage, oil expenses because of power outages, destruction of bridges, attacks on 11 FENADESAL [Salvadoran National Railroads] trains, destruction of approximately 900 high-tension towers and transformers of the national electricity system [5-second break in reception]. We repeat: The FMLN has caused losses of 219 million colones on the government's war economy.

During 1987 our sabotage reached the oligarchy's cattle, thus causing difficulties for the reactivation plans of the government's war economy [5-second break in reception] urban commando units increased in 1987. They carried out actions in San Salvador, [name indistinct] Zacatecoluca, San Vicente, and other Salvadoran cities.

In 1987 new units joined the FMLN militias in several cantons and hamlets.

In 1987 the FMLN consolidated its strategic front in the paracentral region and carried out large and medium-sized attacks on Army positions [words indistinct] paramilitary forces, ambushes, controlled military mobilizations, [words indistinct] revolutionary [words indistinct] reached high levels.

In 1987 ambushes [words indistinct] throughout the country [words indistinct] on the country's roads.

In 1987 the western front continued consolidating, growing, and increasing its clandestine militias and guerrillas, who effectively joined [words indistinct] transportation stoppage [words indistinct] in Santa Ana.

This year our guerrilla units [3-second break in reception] on cotton, sugarcane, and coffee fields [words indistinct] against owners who did not pay fair wages to their workers. Several dozen farms, sugar mills, processing plants, plantations, drawbridges, and agricultural vehicles were sabotaged.

In 1987 a [words indistinct] guerrilla [words indistinct] located itself on the outskirts of San Salvador to ambush vehicles, carry out annihilation operations, and organize the population in only a few hours [4-second break in reception] of the repressive organizations, which maintained the sabotage.

In 1987 our political, military structures consolidated further, and we continued with the formation of a single revolutionary party and a single peoples party.

Honduras

Contras Reportedly Move From El Aguacate

PA042313 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio-Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Report by Miriam Mercado]

[Text] Catacama, Olanche—The Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries have left El Aguacate military base as part of a strategic retreat because of the Esquipulas agreements' International Verification Commission's arrival in Honduras this week to verify that Honduras is complying with that agreement.

It is important to point out that within the framework of these commitments, the anti-Sandinists have not abandoned Honduran territory. They arrived at Aguaquire from El Aguacate at the end of November, in 10 trucks loaded with wooden boxes containing their belongings. Among the arriving contras were 13 war wounded.

Meanwhile, it was confirmed that only Honduran 16th Infantry Brigade soldiers are stationed at the El Aguacate military base, Catacama. These soldiers will receive the Verification Commission's visit, scheduled for 8 January.

Culmi Mayor Ramon Aleman Padilla confirmed that the contras have not abandoned Honduran territory:

[Begin recording] [Aleman] We have reported complaints from a neighboring village—Aguaquire. They report that the counterrevolutionaries had arrived to stay in their village quite a few days ago. There is a sector within the village that does not agree with their arrival.

[Mercado] It is said that contras came a month ago to Aguaquire, Culmi municipality. How many trucks brought them? What were in those trucks?

[Aleman] They brought 10 trucks loaded with wood and some boxes; residents say they do not know what was in the rather large boxes.

[Mercado] There supposedly is a sector within Aguaquire village that favors the contra arrival. Why is this? What have the contras offered them?

[Aleman] A group favors their arrival because, according to them, the contras have offered to repair the road and install electricity in the village. Because of this, there are some town residents, including the president of the institution [not further identified], agreeable to their residing in the village. We did notice that the trucks arrived a month ago. However, we now have received complaints from village residents and, as the people's representative, we have had to report this event and support the people who do not agree with the contra's presence.

[Mercado] Are these contras from the Aguacate base?

[Aleman] This is what the Aguaquire residents reported. They said this group of contras came from that base and that the trucks departed from the Aguacate base. [end recording]

The Culmi mayor also stated that he knew other contras had gone to Swan Island, which was declared a military center 3 months ago, and where the Honduran Government has prohibited boats from moving within that area.

[Begin Aleman recording] No one has gone there from Culmi, but we understand that people from the El Aguacate area have gone. We understand that they have been working at Swan Island and they supposedly are placing their installations in that area. [end recording]

The contras arrived in Aguaquire, 7 km from Culmi, and made promises in order to be allowed to stay. All this has been done in order to dodge the international commission's inspection. Because of their beautiful promises, Santiago Herrera Barahona, resident of Aguaquire, expressed his regret to Radio America, because contras have not stayed in Aguaquire:

[Begin recording] [Mercado] Are you in favor of the contras' staying here?

[Herrera] That is true; we favor it.

[Mercado] Why?

[Herrera] Because they want to help us out; they want to install electricity in some of the houses nearest to them and to repair the road. Neither the politicians nor the district mayor have ever given us this aid.

[Mercado] You have a road here. How long is it?

[Herrera] Approximately 2 and 1/2 km.

[Mercado] Two and 1/2 km and the politicians, Liberals or Nationalists, have never fixed it?

[Herrera] No, never.

[Mercado] Who did you vote for?

[Herrera] For Carlos Flores.

[Mercado] Would you vote for Carlos Flores again?

[Herrera] Since we have not received any help from him, perhaps I will not. [end recording]

It has also been confirmed that contras have been given orders to withdraw with their families to remote places in this country; places like Catacama or Bocay, in the Honduran mountainous region, located in Olancho Department. It is practically inaccessible and can only be reached by helicopter. The Bocay region is the one that covers the area where the El Bocay, the Nicaraguan river, flows into the Segovia or Coco River, the natural border between Honduras and Nicaragua. In conclusion, we can also report that the contras have practically taken over La Pradera neighborhood in Catacama. They live in houses that cost approximately 30,000 lempiras—they enjoy the millions sent by Reagan—where several commanders have married Honduran women. They have promised those women that at some time in the future—a million light-years away—they will become the Nicaraguan first ladies.

Nicaragua

Obando y Bravo on Government-Contra Talks

PA042236 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Jan 88

[News conference held by Cardinal Msgr Miguel Obando y Bravo with unidentified reporters at the Santo Domingo de la Sierrita Church in Managua on 3 January—recorded]

[Text] [Obando y Bravo] No specific date has yet been scheduled. There had been some talk about holding a meeting before 15 January; however, when I spoke with the [Nicaraguan] Resistance, it maintained that before engaging in more talks it is necessary for the contra leaders to talk with the mediator, and they suggested Guatemala. I said that Central America is fine with me, but that there have been certain difficulties. The opinion of the governments must be taken into consideration. The Resistance told me to send a telegram asking about the possibility of holding such a meeting in Guatemala. The Nicaraguan Government, however, had proposed a meeting of the government's advisers with the Resistance in Panama or Belize. The Resistance has suggested that it be in Central America, but it wants to talk beforehand with the mediator; this meeting is to be held in Guatemala.

[Reporter] When the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission arrives, what is your report about compliance or noncompliance going to be?

[Obando y Bravo] The report has already been written, and we are going to deliver it when we have to.

[Reporter] Is the report positive or negative?

[Obando y Bravo] I believe one should be neither too optimistic nor too pessimistic.

[Reporter] Does Your Eminence have any message for the Contadora Group, the Support Group, and Central American presidents concerning peace?

[Obando y Bravo] I feel all of us are interested in having peace, and we Nicaraguans are very interested in having peace in our country. I feel the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission has a very important role to play. As you know, the Nicaraguan Government has stated it will lift the state of emergency and will give the most ample amnesty depending on the findings of the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission. In this regard, I hope that the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission will try to obtain the fullest information possible here in the country by speaking with the Nicaraguan Government, with all opposition parties, and with anyone who might be able to give a realistic report.

[Reporter] Msgr Obando y Bravo, have you been able to exert influence on the counterrevolution to accept the cease-fire talks in Belize or Panama?

[Obando y Bravo] I have neither been able to persuade the Resistance nor the Nicaraguan Government, because the Resistance wants to have the talks in Central America while the government wants to have the talks in either Panama or Belize. I have not been able to persuade either of them.

[Reporter] Do you feel there is a willingness by either of the two parties?

[Obando y Bravo] I feel there has to be some willingness. However, things are not so simple in politics—things are complicated—and sometimes there are political matters at stake that prevent immediate solutions.

[Reporter] In your personal opinion, where should the meetings be held?

[Obando y Bravo] The government has proposed the meeting be held in the United States, and the Resistance has proposed that the meeting be held here in Nicaragua. To seek a halfway place, I would like the talks to be in some other Central American country. This would get around the impasse. I suggest this because Contadora was born in Central America, and I feel it is inconsistent to say that the meeting cannot be held in Central America, because we are really trying to put Contadora's efforts into practice. I do not understand the reason for not having the talks in Central America when Contadora—I made a mistake; I mean Esquipulas II, not Contadora—was born in Central America, and when it comes to putting it into practice then we want to set obstacles before it.

[Reporter] What do you, as a man of God, expect from the Central American presidents summit?

[Obando y Bravo] We men of God feel that there is nothing impossible for God. I hope they will work for peace in the region. They have a great responsibility.

[Reporter] What does your meeting with the contras in Guatemala depend on?

[Obando y Bravo] It depends on the acquiescence of the Guatemalan Government and on the presence of the news media. Someone said to me we could have the meeting in Guatemala, but without the press. I feel that the press is looking for information, and it is hard to hold a meeting without having the press there.

[Reporter] Do you feel the Nicaraguan Government has fulfilled any part of the Esquipulas agreement commitments?

[Obando y Bravo] I think we already said that in our last report. The government has taken some steps, but it still needs to lift the amnesty—I mean grant total amnesty—and to lift the state of emergency. The Nicaraguan Government has stated that all of this is contingent upon the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission's report.

Panama

Assembly Approves Law on Slander, Libel

PA311633 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] The law against slander and libel has been approved by the two Legislative Assembly opposing groups. However, there are still doubts about the way in which the new law will be applied. Let us view the events at the Legislative Assembly:

The unanimous vote of the legislators of the two assembly opposing groups at 1338 today approved Bill No 18, which amends several articles of the criminal, judicial, and civil codes, and creates new rules concerning the crimes of slander and libel.

Both the legislators of the official sector and the opposition expressed similar views concerning the new law, which in its Article No 2 describes slander as a false criminal accusation against someone, and libel as the statements made or actions committed to disgrace, discredit, or demean someone.

The law is comprised of 20 articles, which include sanctions with sentences to be paid as fines or by serving 90 to 180 days in jail in the cases in which one person is falsely accused of a crime.

Similarly, in the cases in which someone's dignity, honor, or decency is offended through written documents or in any other way, people will be sentenced to pay fines or serve 90 to 180 days in jail.

When the aforementioned crimes are committed through the media, the applicable sentence will be 18 to 24 months in jail for slander and 12 to 18 months in jail for libel.

According to Democratic Revolutionary Party Legislator Luis Gomez, the law on slander and libel does not apply exclusively to the media. Gomez added that the law was duly discussed with all legal and journalist sectors.

Christian Democratic Legislator Raul Ossa described the law as good and stated that it is an instrument to correct the series of slanderous and depressing articles that have been affecting citizens' reputation and honor.

[Begin recording] [Gomez] This law resolves the problem of the abuses committed by several media, but it is not specifically issued for the media. It is a benevolent law, but it facilitates the procedure of dealing with violations of media use or of dealing with people who feel their rights have been affected by third parties.

[Ossa] Although we are delivering an instrument that will serve that purpose, I must also say that we doubt the judicial branch will be capable of applying this good instrument we are independently giving the country. [end recording]

Text of Law

PA012225 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 31 Dec 87 pp 1, A-10

[Law No 18 signed by Legislative Assembly President Alberto Aleman Boyd and Secretary General Erasmo Pinilla on 29 December]

[Text] Law No 18 of 1987

By which several articles of the Penal and Judicial Codes and Article 1706 of the Civil Code are amended and other aspects pertaining to the crimes of slander and libel are introduced.

The Legislative Assembly decrees:

Article 1: A paragraph is added to Article 78 of the Penal Code, to read as follows: Article 78: In cases of crimes against honor, the detainee must first pay the penalty imposed in a civil suit before the sentence can be conditionally suspended.

Article 2: For the purpose of this law, slander is understood as the false attribution of a crime to another person, and libel as an oral expression or action undertaken to dishonor, discredit, or demean a person.

Article 3: Article 172 of the Penal Code will read as follows: Article 172: A person who falsely attributes a punishable action to another will be sentenced to either serve between 90 to 180 days or pay a fine equivalent to the value of between 90 to 180 days.

Article 4: Article 173 of the Penal Code will read as follows: Article 173: Whoever offends the dignity and honor of and shows disrespect for another in writing or through some other means shall be sentenced to either serve between 60 to 120 days or pay a fine equivalent to the value of between 60 to 120 days.

Article 5: Article 173a has been inserted in the Penal Code. The article reads as follows: Article 173a: Whenever the offenses described in Articles 172 and 173 are committed through a communications medium, the penalty will be between 18 to 24 months for slander and between 12 to 18 months for libel.

Article 6: Article 174 of the Penal Code will read as follows: Article 174: The spouses or relatives within the fourth degree of consanguinity or within the second degree of affinity who feel the memory of a deceased person has been unfairly offended can file charges against the offender, who will be sentenced to either serve between 90 to 180 days or pay a fine equivalent to the value of between 90 to 180 days.

Article 7: Article 175 of the Penal Code will read as follows: Article 175: Whoever publishes or reproduces through any news medium the offenses committed by another will be sentenced to between 18 to 24 months.

Article 8: Article 177 of the Penal Code will read as follows: Article 177: If the charged offense is the object of a trial still pending decision, the trial for slander will be suspended until a sentence is passed in the first trial. This sentence will be final.

When the charged offense is the object of a trial pending decision, the trial for libel will be suspended only if Article 176 applies.

Article 9: Article 178 of the Penal Code will read as follows: Article 178: Provisions in Articles 72 and 173 of this code notwithstanding, among other situations, the discussions of, criticisms of, or opinions about the official actions or omissions of government officials regarding their functions; and literary, artistic, historical, scientific, or professional critiques do not constitute an offense against honor.

Article 10: Article 180 of the Penal Code will read as follows: Article 180: To initiate proceedings in the case of offenses against honor, the offended party must file a suit, which must be accompanied by prima facie evidence.

In the cases when the suit has been filed by the president of the Republic, vice presidents, ministers of state, directors of autonomous institutions, legislators, magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice and the Electoral Tribunal, the prosecutor general, the prosecutor of the administration, the general comptroller, the deputy general comptroller, the commander in chief of the Defense Forces, the members of the Defense Forces staff, and ambassadors accredited in Panama, a communication in writing from the offended party summoning the offender to appear at the office of a preliminary judge shall suffice.

Article 11: Article 1984 of the Penal Code will read as follows: Article 1984: The proceedings can be terminated and filed in the cases of robbery, injury resulting from recklessness, swindle, embezzlement, complicity, possession of stolen property, breach of family duties, issuing checks not covered by sufficient funds, and offenses against honor when the offended person or his legal representative withdraws charges, if the accused person does not have a criminal record, or if compensation has been agreed upon.

Article 12: Article 1988 of the Judicial Code will read as follows: Article 1988: Once the sentence is pronounced and the civil responsibility is established, its implementation will be promoted before the judge who declared the civil responsibility. In the case of crimes against patrimony, it is understood that the property will be returned and the cost of any deterioration of that property will be covered whenever possible. If that is not possible, the obligation will be to pay for the value of the property in legal currency, following a legal assessment. The compensation will be determined by the courts, through the investigating procedures established by this code and in accordance with the provisions in Title VI, Book I of the Penal Code.

Article 13: Article 1706 of the Civil Code will read as follows: Article 1706: The lapse for demanding civil responsibility for criminal actions against someone's honor and for the obligations derived from guilt or negligence as related to Article 1644 will be 1 year beginning on the date the penal sentence is pronounced.

Article 14: When charges for slander or libel are made public in an impersonal manner through any media source, it will be presumed that whoever makes the public statement or charges does so on a personal basis.

Article 15: The municipal judges in the area of residence of the offended person or in the sector where the punishable action took place—whichever is preferred by the offended party—will have exclusive authority in the handling of cases involving criminal actions against someone's honor. In the event the criminal action took place through a media source, the circuit judges will have authority in the case.

Article 16: If so requested, and provided the offended party has not made other private arrangements, the penal sentence will order an indemnification for the damage caused and will establish the amount due.

In any event, the indemnification will include compensation for the moral and property damage caused by the criminal action and the expenses the offended party incurred, including lawyer's fees. The indemnification sum will be determined by the court after completing all the investigations ordered by the Judicial Code and in accordance with Title VI, Book I of the Penal Code. An indemnification request can only be formalized by the offended party. In case of his death or physical or mental impairment, his spouse or relatives within the fourth degree of consanguinity or second degree of affinity may file the request, which will be made through a petition after the legal process is over.

Article 17: The directors of media sources are obliged to publish free of charge the clarifications or rectifications it receives from any person who feels there has been an offense against his honor or he has been erroneously or unjustly mentioned in a publication made through that media source.

The written statement or rectification should be faithfully divulged without any changes or additions. The clarification will be divulged in the media source's next edition, provided it is presented no less than 12 hours before the source is published.

The media sources's director must insert or include the clarification for which its author will be responsible. The clarification or reply will be divulged without any comments and without adding any words to its headline or text. It will only be identified as a "clarification" or "rectification."

If there is noncompliance with this regulation, the interested party may request that the Government and Justice Ministry's Media Directorate order the immediate publication by the media source of the rectification. The source will be liable to a 200-balboa fine for each day the clarification is delayed.

Article 18: Whenever a person charged with slander and libel is sentenced to jail, he will only be entitled to conditional freedom on a bail that will be no less than 1,000 balboas.

Article 19: This law modifies Articles 78, 172, 173, 174, 175, 177, 178, and 180 of the Penal Code; Article 1706 of the Civil Code; Articles 1984 and 1988 of the Judicial Code; and abrogates Law 8 of 10 February 1978, Law 7 of 16 March 1984, and any other contravening stipulation.

Article 20: This law will be in effect once it is published.

Issued in Panama City on 29 December 1987

Honorable Legislator Alberto Aleman Boyd, President of the Legislative Assembly

Erasmo Pinilla C., Secretary General

Reagan Remarks Seen Leading to Improved Ties

PA042350 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 4 Jan 88 p 7

["The People's Compass" column by Adolfo Benedetti: "From Words to Facts"]

[Text] The words used by U.S. President Ronald Reagan at the ceremony during which Panama's new ambassador to the United States, Juan B. Sosa, delivered his credentials, must be interpreted in the framework of the situation we are experiencing so we may identify ambiguous statements that hide the true intentions of the Republican administration and of the measures it recently adopted against Panama.

While the U.S. President was reaffirming his decision to respect and to enforce compliance with the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, U.S. violations of the letter and spirit of these treaties became public. So far no significant U.S. official has done anything to rectify these violations, which they would do if they really had any good or positive intentions toward our people.

Regarding the delivery of the Panama Canal in December 1999, as the Torrijos-Carter Treaties establish, it can be affirmed that U.S. administrative and legislative mechanisms are being used to constantly exert pressure on our government and clog our nation's ability to manage the canal by means of blockades and the closing of Panama's international credit sources, thus limiting Panama's right to exercise its sovereign will and self-determination.

While it is true that Mr Reagan has euphemistically stated that it is the Panamanians who must resolve their own matters—thus admitting the justness of the Panamanian Government's position of not tolerating U.S.

meddling in our domestic conflicts—there is still in the air the memory of the personal participation of Mr Arthur Davis in activities that are absolutely and exclusively our concern.

Nevertheless, the significant admission by the U.S. President that correct actions by the leaders of the two countries can contribute to constructive relations of cooperation, which have existed in the past, represents the beginning of a break from the current stagnant bilateral relations that have been characterized by pugnacity.

Cooperatives To Receive $25 Million From EEC

PA050250 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] IPACOOP [Autonomous Panamanian Institute of Cooperatives] Executive Director Euclides Tejada Espino has reported that the cooperatives movement in Panama will be strengthened with $25 million contributed by the EEC. Referring to IPACOOP's policy regarding the current crisis, Tejada said:

[Begin recording] The cooperatives movement in Panama has demonstrated it is a third force; this is to say, the power of the joint economy. But financial resources are required to strengthen projects essential for this economy. These projects are mostly production cooperatives. Because AID suspended aid for the cooperatives, IPACOOP, the Central American institutes for development of cooperatives, and the Central American and Panamanian federations of cooperatives through the Action Committee for the Economic and Social Development of Central America, CADESCA, have been negotiating a $25-million loan to strengthen cooperatives. Part of this money will be used for financing, part for a guarantee fund to get more loans from local banks, and still a third portion to strengthen the institutions. This program is scheduled to start in April 1988. During January we are determining with the Central American countries the location of the unit to execute this program and the basic requirements to lend money to small- and medium-sized cooperatives. [end recording]

Bolivia

Further Reportage on COB General Strike Plan

Armed Forces Head Cited

PY312010 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1915 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] La Paz, 31 Dec (EFE)—General Jorge Rodriguez Bravo, commander of the Bolivian Armed Forces, today said the military will support any measure adopted by the government to counteract the COB decision to go out on indefinite general strike beginning 7 January 1988.

Gen Rodriguez said the Armed Forces will support the democratic process and will intervene to resolve any social conflict created by the unions "if the police forces are overwhelmed."

The COB called for an indefinite general strike beginning 7 January to protest the government's failure to heed and pay attention to a "national list of economic and social demands" that was submitted to the government on 5 October.

Union leaders today said they "are adhering to their decision to strike and to have the peasants blockade roads until the government satisfies COB demands."

The government warned it is willing to enforce a state of siege if the COB strike creates social upheaval in the country.

Parties Support Dialogue

PY042118 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1836 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] La Paz, 4 Jan (EFE)—Major Bolivian leftist parties today supported the Catholic Church initiative for a COB-government dialogue to prevent the general strike scheduled for 7 January.

The document, signed by seven parties, expresses "firm support" for the COB decision to begin a strike "if the government refuses to begin a serious and constructive dialogue in an effort to meet the workers' and the people's just demands."

The leftist parties also criticize and condemn the government's intimidating threats, repression, and replacement of dialogue with violence.

The Bolivian leftist organizations state that previous resolutions have been strengthened by the people's support and by the legal status they obtained during the 6 December 1987 municipal elections.

The general strike was called by the COB to demand social and economic improvements. These demands were presented to the government on 5 October 1987 in a document called the "Sole National Petition."

The leftist parties claim that the COB petition was "preposterously and arrogantly" rejected by the government.

Several sectors have supported a dialogue between the COB and the government, including some ministries and the Armed Forces.

Labor Minister Alfredo Franco Guachalla today insisted that dialogue is needed, but he added that the government will make known its definite position at the end of a cabinet meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 5 January.

Meanwhile, COB press secretary Zulema Alanes today told EFE that preparations for the strike have received the support of several labor sectors.

Alanes added that COB expects a positive answer from President Victor Paz Estenssoro to a letter sent to him on 30 December 1987, in which the union organizations propose an inmediate and direct dialogue with the president to prevent a strike.

Brazil

CONIN To Review Computer Market Closure

PY041250 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] On 20 January the National Council for Information Science and Automation, CONIN, will review the computer market closure policy. On that date, CONIN will analyze the situation of some Brazilian assets and companies that have been directly affected by the U.S. retaliation against Brazilian products.

Tactical Missile Development Reported

PY041913 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 3 Jan 88 p 7

[By Eustaquio de Freitas]

[Text] Sao Jose dos Campos—In theory, during computer simulations, everything works well. The first Brazilian tactical missiles, launched from a platform on the back of a truck, are capable of carrying up to 300 kg of explosives a distance of 1,000 km.

In practice, some technological barriers must be overcome and funds must be obtained, but a small group of engineers at Orbita Aerospace Systems [Orbita Sistemas Aeroespaciais]—80 percent of this enterprise's shares are held by Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] and Engesa [Specialized Aerospace Engineers, Inc]—are stepping up their research so that the missile will be operational in 5 years.

This will mean the militarization of a device the Aerospace Technology Center (CTA), which is under the Aeronautics Ministry, developed for scientific research purposes. Orbita's project is based on the Sonda IV rocket, which can carry a 500 kg payload 700 km or a 300 kg payload 1,000 km.

Orbita operations director Sergio Coeli do Prado explained that "our initial project is to produce the Sonda IV rocket for scientific purposes in order to take advantage of an interesting nonmilitary market. But, as in any military related industry, we are also studying the rocket's military applications, which would involve a market of approximately $500 million per year.

Orbita Director Vito di Grassi confirmed this, adding the intention is to sell the missiles fitted with a conventional payload, or without a payload so the client can fit it with his own.

Avibras [Brazilian Aerospace Industry]—the main Brazilian weapons exporter—has projects of the same type. However, its director, Pedro Angelo Vial, asserted that the surface-to-surface tactical missile project is developing at a slow pace due to slow funding.

He asserted that "once it is ready, in about 3 or 4 years, the new product will only be sold with a sealed conventional payload, although it will serve several purposes. Nuclear weapons are not part of Brazil's policy, and less still that of Avibras in the medium or long term," said Vial.

In other words, there are two projects; the Avibras project is more modern. It involves a single-stage 12-meter rocket that was developed over a 3-year period on the basis of the SS—the ammunition [municao] used for the Astros II artillery saturation system [sistema de saturacao de tiros de artilharia]. Orbita's project is based on a two-stage rocket that weighs 7 tons and has already been launched by the CTA three times on a trial basis.

However, it will still require a long period of time before a rocket such as the Sonda IV—unlike the SS-300, produced by Avibras, which is designed for warfare—becomes militarized. During practical tests, the Sonda IV has shown an avarage dispersal of 80 km, which means that if it were used for military purposes it could drop 80 km from the target.

However, the first step in placing the Orbita project on the right path has already been taken. The computer-controlled inertial platform [plataforma inercial], which was developed by the CTA, will help reduce the Sonda IV's dispersion by more than 90 percent. The next item developed by the CTA—the satellite launching vehicle [veicula lancador de satelites]—which will be used to launch Brazilian satellites in the early 1990's will have a much smaller dispersion.

Avibras' joint inertial system [sistema inercial solidario]—a sort of automatic pilot that helps guide the missile to the target— is ready and, as a private industry, it has its own means to acquire more sophisticated components, such as gyroscopes, in the international market. The CTA was affected by the U.S. embargo on the supply of components for the inertial platform for 3 years, but it found other suppliers. Should it become necessary, the Aeronatics Ministry will seek the technology for altitude guidance and control of rockets in the PRC or Soviet Union.

The VLS, a gigantic 19-meter four-stage rocket that weighs 50 tons, is the best launching rocket for the military version of the Sonda IV. The development of the VLS is possible only after 20 years of research and testing by a team of 300 technicians and scientists of the Space Activities Institute (IAE), which is linked to the CTA. The IAE director, Brigadier Lauro Eduardo de Souza Pinto, asserts that they have no plans to militarize rockets like the Sonda IV, which he said is an old project of Major General Hugo de Oliveira Piva, former CTA director and current director of the Orbita Research and Development Department.

Producing a missile to fit the VLS, however, would be a more complicated project. The VLS has four stages and carries 40 tons of solid fuel. Launching the VLS, with only the four rockets in the first stage, generates 100 tons of thrust and 60 atmospheres of pressure inside each cylinder, which heats up to 3,000 degrees centigrade. Making the VLS feasible means developing fixed launching platforms that will make it possible to fire it a distance of 3,000 km with 1 ton of explosives.

This is necessarily a political decision. After all, a 1,000-km-range missile can reach any point in South America.

Nevertheless, the VLS is a vehicle with a reasonable market in the civilian sector and could be sold on the international market for approximately $10 million, while a missile with a range of 300-1,000 km would cost between $2 and $5 million. The VLS was designed to place 150-kg satellites in orbit at an altitude of 700 km. It will be launched from Alcantara (Maranhao State) in 1990 carrying a weather satellite.

This will be the VLS's trial by fire since the program is behind schedule and the vehicle will not be tested beforehand. The scientists admit that it is a risky project because there is always a chance of losing the satellite.

Chile

Bomb Explosion Near Infantry School Reported

PA041357 Paris AFP in Spanish 1329 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Santiago, 4 Jan (AFP)— Police sources reported that a high-powered bomb exploded today in a street near the Chilean Army's infantry school in San Bernardo, 20 km south of Santiago.

The explosion broke windows, damaged an unoccupied private vehicle, and caused panic in the neigborhood.

The bomb caused no casualties and no organization has claimed responsibility for this attack, which is similar to numerous ones by urban guerrilla groups opposed to the military regime of President Augusto Pinochet.

UNOMASUNO Interviews United Left Leader

PA240029 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 14 Dec 87 p 18

[Mario Gomez Lopez report on UNOMASUNO interview with Jose Sanfuentes, secretary general of Chile's United Left—date and place not given]

[Text] Jose Sanfuentes, United Left (IU) secretary general, during an inteview with UNOMASUNO, said that "Pinochet's guarantee with regard to a plebiscite announced for next year to determine whether the dictator will remain in power is a fraud." He said that the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), while promulgating and promoting a campaign for "free elections," is contributing to the perpetuation of the regime through the end of the century.

Sanfuentes added that the Chilean Armed Forces are divided because some of its members believe Pinochet jeopardizes Chile's national stability. He also insisted that the labor class has resumed its central role and that the PCCh, which is an IU member, is not divided.

Sanfuentes pointed out that "the IU, which represents the forces that supported the election and government of Salvador Allende and its parties (a total of seven), commands the most dynamic and active forces in the country in opposition to the dictator." He added that the IU operates within an opposition framework and is centered around the Christian Democracy and the Party for Democracy (PPD), which is made up of minority centrist parties.

Sanfuentes explained that "the traditional right wing supports Pinochet but is affected by internal turmoil, which led to the resignation of its first president, who was then replaced by one of the dictator's servants. Pinochet himself has exerted control over the National Renovation (RN) by addressing that right-wing party during tours around the country to prevent the RN from disbanding. Financially speaking, the five or six most powerful families in the country support the RN and are not answerable to the dictatorship."

Sanfuentes, a 36-year-old economist with two children, said that the Chilean working class emerged from obscurity "in June of last year when it agreed to stage a national work stoppage that incited a struggle to topple Pinochet. This work stoppage was a complete success, because the National Assembly, under the auspices of the Catholic Church, was forced to call a meeting at O'Higgins Park, which was attended by nearly 500,000 people." He stressed that the IU enjoys the broadest support among preparatory school and university students, intellectuals, artists, and professionals.

As for the Armed Forces, Sanfuentes said that they do not offer monolithic support to the regime, "because, day after day, they can see the country's destruction caused by an economic model imposed by large financial groups, whose orders are followed by Pinochet."

We asked: To what degree was the kidnapping of Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Carreno by the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR) helpful or detrimental?

He did not answer this question directly, but said: "Violence is a legitimate weapon imposed by the dictatorship itself. The people cannot accept persecution, torture, and murder with resignation, without responding with a struggle that manifests itself in many ways. The IU did not condemn or condone the kidnapping, because any action against the dictatorship is part of a reality stemming from the illegitimacy of those who usurped power; the opposition needs nobody's endorsement."

Sanfuentes denied that the FPMR is the "armed wing" of the PCCh, for which he acts as official spokesman in Chile during public ceremonies and makes statements to the media. "The FPMR has never been a member of our party, although we agree on the urgent need to wage a struggle against Pinochet by all means the people have available." He also denied that the PCCh is divided into the so-called historical branch, which is the military faction, and a right-wing faction, which appears to be linked to former parliamentarian Maria Maluenda, who supports a mobilization to demand free elections.

Sanfuentes said that the PCCh is stronger than ever, all opinions are debated democratically, and its presence is felt within the Chilean social fiber. Wherever you go, you will find a communist or several communists sharing in tasks and actions against repression and against the regime's economic policies, he said. He added that the communists' strongest and purest contingent comprises youths and workers, and has more than just numerical strength. We know that imperialists, the dictatorship, and all the international anticommunist spokesmen spread all sorts of allegations about division within our party. However, the facts prove that after 14 years of dictatorship, Pinochet's main goal of destroying our party has not been achieved, and even his most loyal followers say this. How, otherwise, can you explain that although we are declared illegal, we can function publicly, we who defy his criminal actions, when he [Pinochet], day after day in his speeches blames us for all acts committed against him." [no opening quotation marks as published]

Sanfuentes insisted that the PCCh is completely unified against Pinochet, and is unified in its wish to bring an immediate end to Pinochet's dictatorship.

We asked: Have the laws he has dictated not proven to be sufficient on their own and shown that he is not needed as a dictator?

Sanfuentes smiled and replied ironically that "the fascist version of legality would not last 1 day, 1 hour, once Pinochet is overthrown. Only he supports this supposedly legal scaffold, where everything is forbidden, where freedom of speech has been eliminated, where all rights have been denied, where the power rests only with him, and where he is even capable of legalizing an accusation. No one in Chile bets a peso that the enforcement of the repressive laws will continue once we get Pinochet and his henchmen out of power."

Jose Sanfuentes and the remaining IU directors left Mexico yesterday for Lima, where they will complete their Latin American tour. They will be back in Chile on 19 December.

Colombia

Minister Considers Resigning Over Ochoa Case

PA041508 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Bogota—Colombian Justice Minister Enrique Low Murtra and his closest advisers are meeting at this very moment to study the situation created following the release of Jorge Luis Ochoa Vasquez, a very well-known drug trafficker. Minister Low Murtra left his home early this morning to meet with his advisers, to study the delicate situation, and to read what the main newspapers have to say about this case. The Liberal and Conservative press have harshly criticized the government, the jail system, and the judge for releasing Ochoa from jail, an action that prompted the U.S. State Department to issue a protest note.

Justice Minister Low Murtra said that the judicial order granting Ochoa's release was unusual, and that his own words have not helped to ease the political burden that has fallen on the government. Low Murtra has not decided whether he will resign from office. Following the statements made by La Picota Jail director and legal adviser, many people have demanded Low Murtra's resignation.

FARC To Call Truce During March Elections

PA050404 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0205 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Bogota, 4 Jan (EFE)—The communist FARC announced today it will respect the March 1988 municipal elections by declaring a truce at that time. These will be the first municipal elections ever held in Colombia's history.

FARC added it is holding talks with the other guerrilla organizations to join the truce during the election campaign and the elections on 13 September. [as received]

Jacobo Arenas, FARC ideologist and second in command, made the announcement in an interview with Radio Caracol by telephone from the mountains of La Uribe, 200 km south of Bogota, where the FARC's general staff headquarters is located. FARC is also the country's largest guerrilla group.

Arenas added that the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board, established at the end of September 1987 when the six principal Colombian rebel groups joined forces, "has not operated militarily" and that the actions some rebel groups have attributed to the coordinating board were carried out "without authorization."

The guerrilla commander emphasized that the coordinating board's purpose "is to find a political solution for the nation's problems." He reaffirmed an appeal to the government to negotiate with the rebel group to find a solution to the violence.

Arenas denied that the coordinating board had been responsible for last November's terrorist attack against the Rio Claro cement plant in Antioquia Department, adding that "guerrilla groups do not carry out actions of this nature."

He also denied that FARC had murdered Pablo Emilio Guarin, anticommunist Liberal congressman from Puerto Boyaca, also in November, because "the FARC does not commit such crimes."

He said the statements made by guerrilla Commander Raul Reyes for television were distorted by claiming he said that FARC murdered Guarin.

Arenas said the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board will only commit armed actions if the people are denied the right to protest, such as holding civic strikes.

FARC and the Colombian Government signed a truce and cease-fire in 1984 under President Belisario Betancur (1982-1986); this truce has frequently been violated.

Arenas said that FARC's actions are purely "defensive" in areas where antiguerrilla military operations are carried out.

Briefs

Import, Export Statistics

The Colombian Foreign Trade Institute today issued a report on Colombian imports and exports, describing 1987 as a favorable year for foreign trade. Minor exports increased 20 percent, while coffee, oil, and coal exports grew considerably despite the difficulties faced with international market prices. Industrial exports climbed 20 percent, and agricultural exports increased 10 percent. The report said that we spent more dollars than in previous years, adding that 88 percent of foreign

exchange savings were used to purchase raw material and industrial equipment. [Excerpt] *[Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Dec 87 PA]*

Coffee Quota Reduced

The 1988 world coffee quota will only be reduced by 1,000,000 bags. The quota reduction was originally estimated at 1,500,000 bags. Consequently, Colombia's share of the reduction will be 160,000 bags. This reduction was based on the average end of year market price. [Summary] *[Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 30 Dec 87 p 8 PA]*

Paraguay

Colorado Chairman Delivers New Year Address

PY301856 Asuncion Domestic Service in Spanish 2330 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Year-end address by Colorado Party Chairman Sabino Augusto Montanaro to party members at Colorado Party headquarters in Asuncion—live]

[Excerpts] Your Excellency General Alfredo Stroessner, president of the Republic and honorary president of the National Republican Association, Colorado Party; [applause] Messrs vice presidents of the party Executive Board; [applause] Messrs members and alternate members of the Executive Board; [applause] Messrs generals and admirals of the glorious Armed Forces of the nation; [applause] Messrs senators and deputies; presidents of party chapters; and fellow party members:

It is with deep satisfaction and pride that I address to you this year-end message as chairman of the honorable Executive Board of the glorious National Republican Association. In addressing this message, I first want to say that I feel honored by the presence at Colorado headquarters of His Excellency Gen Alfredo Stroessner, the only leader and presidential candidate of the great Colorado people, honorary president of the party Executive Board, and president of the Republic. [applause and cheers] [passage omitted]

In the area of party activities, after an intense electoral campaign the ordinary convention of the Colorado Party was held on 1 August of this year. Three movements campaigned in total freedom throughout that electoral period, seeking to gain the party leadership for the 1987-90 term. On the day of the convention, for which 853 delegates were legally accredited, the convention opened with 655 delegates in attendance, that is, nearly 80 percent of the delegates appointed by the 229 party chapters throughout the country. One of the movements decided to withdraw from the convention, which was then held in accordance with the party statutes, with the remaining two movements democratically competing for victory. The secret balloting yielded these results: Foursome of Loyalty and Hope movement, 574 votes [applause and cheers] I repeat: 574 votes for the Foursome of Loyalty and Hope, or Militant and Combatant Stroessnerist Movement—and 81 votes for the National and Popular Movement. These results gave an overwhelming triumph to our movement, which from that moment took over the leadership of the great National Republican Association. [applause]

At the first session of the new party leadership, which was attended by Gen Alfredo Stroessner, our illustrious honorary party president and president of the nation, I was formally installed as chairman of the honorable party Executive Board. Since that unforgettable moment, we have firmly taken the helm of the party leadership. [applause]

We said then, and we will continue to repeat, that we have our hearts open and our hands outstretched to all Colorados. We demand only one thing: authenticity as Colorados, loyalty to the principles and program of the Colorado Party, and staunch support for our leader, Gen Alfredo Stroessner. [applause and cheers] [passage omitted]

Many things have changed in the party since 1 August. We made promises, and we are fulfilling them. We have put new dynamics in the activities of the party, pulling it out of the doldrums with a new style of leadership. [passage omitted]

Responding to the government's call to elections on 14 February 1988, the party Executive Board, acting under the provisions of party statutes, called an extraordinary party convention on 21 November for the nomination of party candidates for the president of the Republic, the Senate, the Chamber of Deputies, and the members of electoral boards throughout the country. The extraordinary convention turned out to be a celebration of Coloradoism, and the party unanimously proclaimed—by a standing ovation—Gen Alfredo Stroessner as candidate for president of the Republic for the 1988-93 term of office. [applause] [passage omitted]

The triumph of the Colorado Party with Stroessner on 14 February 1988 is guaranteed by the great majority of the nation that want to continue living in peace, working in peace, and progressing in peace. Consequently, the ridiculous calls to abstain from voting or to cast blank votes, which are being made by people who have no representation or by tiny groups of irrelevant politicians, will have no bearing on the outcome. The great Paraguayan people will ignore those calls, because these people are valiant, responsible, and conscious of the gains that have been made in a climate of peace and development. These people will never follow the enemies of democratic participation or the few deserters from Coloradoism who are now allied with the eternal enemies of our party. [passage omitted]

All the party chapters throughout the country—absolutely all of them—support the party Executive Board, and all party grassroots organizations have been visited by and given the interest and solidarity of the delegates of the party's top leadership, to convey the correct orientation to them. The Colorado Party has been revitalized and the party grassroots are represented in the party Executive Board by democratically elected members. By being loyal to party principles and to our leader, President Alfredo Stroessner, we are reflecting the authentic sentiments of the Colorado Party, from the chairman of the Executive Board down to the last party member. [applause] [passage omitted]

Let us hope the new year will be bountiful for Paraguay under the blessed sign of peace with which the country will welcome the visit of His Holiness Pope John Paul II. Let us also hope the good wishes for the new year will be fulfilled for the happiness of all those fortunate enough to live in this land of heroes, which is being led to its lofty destiny by the honarary president of our party, His Excellency Gen Alfredo Stroessner.

PATRIA Bets on Reagan in U.S.-USSR 'Game'

PY311313 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 30 Dec 87 p 7

[Commentary:"Always for Democracy"]

[Text] Now that the bubbles of the enthusiasm caused by the "friendly" meeting between the master of the Kremlin and the White House host have ended, and now that the steam generated by demagoguery has condensed, we can look at the issues in depth and extract conclusions, because the fact is that, aside from the literature and rhetoric, we still find two incompatible worlds: the free and democratic Western World on the one hand, and the despotic communist Eastern World, a world of curtains, on the other hand.

Large sectors of the democratic communications media, including the media of the United States, with the characteristic vocational tendency to represent the role of "useful idiots," have presented Gorbachev's image in a more attractive light than Reagan's. The media only talked about the universal common desire for disarmament, or about some greater margin of security against the threat of a nuclear holocaust, when referring to Gorbachev. He reached the heart of the public, including the U.S. public, by granting few concessions. Reagan on the other hand, had a harder job of convincing people because of his tarnished image after his exposure to various scandals, and the existing doubts about his assertions on the "Star Wars" defensive role and its compatibility with peace and disarmament. Some sectors wonder if Reagan was looking for a new tool for total power and world domination. In such an environment, however, peace would not be reached by dialogue and understanding, but under the threat of a catastrophic confrontation which could only be prevented by the unreachable technological advantage of one of the parties, in this case the United States, which would, however, be on the losing side in a confrontation with conventional weapons between NATO forces and the forces of Warsaw Pact countries.

We are not interested, however, in finding out what the two leaders of the superpowers hide in their cloests, but in calling attention to the international propaganda and publicity which is created around each of them. The first impression is that Gorbachev has gained much in the international arena while Reagan, at best, has ended up in a tie. It was startling to note the uniformity of communist propaganda in Eastern European countries and the USSR on the radio—which is the only means of getting the news here because of the distance from Washington and Moscow, from Europe and North America—and compare it with the rather indifferent and heterogeneous "Western" language to describe the feat of the "cowboy" or the "cowboy of democracy."

The comparison made here is not casual because we want to stress that in the Western and free world, among democratic peoples, the rule is to reject all kinds of "herdings." Even in the most favorable circumstances the best advised "cowboy" must prepare for all possible difficulties and even "stampedes." Among the pillories of Marxism-communism, in the middle of the tundra, or the Siberian "gulag," there is no alternative but to obey or die, to lower the head or to be crushed.

Thus, this is the reason for uniformity of the pro-Gorbachev propaganda throughout the entire totalitarian bloc. This propaganda, however, has not been contradicted in the western hemisphere where the "agencies" of the totalitarian progressivism [progresismo] have served as repeater stations.

Nevertheless, concerning the introduction of the leader of democracy, the spokesmen were not as fanatic and strident, extolling the U.S. position as a key for "detente." This merit was mainly attributed to Gorbachev and it would be naive not to admit it. This comes first to subsequently examine the causes.

Do not merely say that to dissent under democracy is normal while to dissent under communism is criminal. With this type of stereotype we will just be led into further confusion. What happens is that under a democracy, such as the one envisaged by the United States, countries of different structures, natures, and situations are required to perform in a way not matched by the demanding party. Beginning with this contradiction, arguments are multiplied. There are those supporting the U.S. question, those not unconditionally bowing to their masters, while there are those opposing the U.S. are likely to reject any type of imperialism or forceful means. Meanwhile, on the other side, where a totalitarian concept—which does not permit any dissent—prevails, the question is whether to applaud or to remain silent. When amid such a propaganda apparatus, however, the nuclear

arsenal is reduced by 5 percent—disregarding the fact that this is just a small percentage—no one will refrain from applauding because the applause is not really for the leaders, who are mutually compromised owing to the seriousness of the nuclear threat, but for the fact that the tension has been relaxed no matter who achieved it or how it was achieved. Beginning with this fact, the rest will be achieved by the propaganda. It is in this field where the communist uniformity, and that of communism's unwitting dupes [idiotas utiles] throughout the world, has achieved an undisputed success, making the communist dictator look like an angel while the western hemisphere leader, the Free World champion, remains as chided as ever—with his image further deteriorating as time goes by, an image that no one appears to be very interested to restore.

In keeping with our unbiased attitude, however, we do not have an uncompromised [refleja] but a compromising behavior, regardless of circumstances or individuals. Our position is not governed by emotionalism but by convictions, so as not to go astray. Concerning the game being played by Gorbachev and Reagan, we bet on Reagan. We are not impressed whatsoever by the "stardom" ["vedetismo"] of the Russian despot because, in the end, if democracy is saved, then there will always be time to correct the rest. It is quite obvious that to save democracy one must differentiate the eastern hemisphere from the Western Hemisphere to keep the Free World free from any type of imperialism and discourage any type of tutelage or fiefdom which violates the principle of self-determination and nonintervention in the domestic affairs of legal equality of nations.

Uruguay

Communist Party Document on Regional Conflict

PY050211 Montevideo LA HORA in Spanish 27 Dec 87 p 6

[Text] The Executive Board of the Uruguayan Communist Party has released a communique demanding that the Uruguayan Government support the Contadora Support Group, and adopt diplomatic measures leading to a peaceful solution to the Central American conflict.

The document warns against ever-increasing U.S. support for the contras, and expresses full solidarity with the Nicaraguan people and the FSLN. It also demands that the terms of the Esquipulas agreements be respected.

The communique of the Communist Party states:

All the peoples of the world, and especially those of Latin America, have celebrated with satisfaction the terms of the Esquipulas II agreements, and received them as a serious effort to find a peaceful solution to the Central American conflict.

Recent events, however, indicate that the Reagan administration insists on ignoring these agreements and refuses to support the request for a cease-fire during Christmas.

On 15 December jet planes coming from Honduras bombed Nicaraguan settlements.

On 20 December the White House announced its decision to grant a new $8.1-million loan to finance the contras' terrorist activities.

In an operation conducted simultaneously with the announcement of this new loan, an army of 1,000 contras attacked the mining settlement of Sluna, Rosita, and Bonanza, and were repelled by the people of the settlements, who were organized in self-defense militias. As a result of the serious clashes, 142 people were killed and 113 injured.

On 21 December an Aeronica cargo plane was hit by a "Red Eye" ground-to-air missile, which was launched from the contras' bases in Costa Rica.

The Nicaraguan Goverment has officially protested to the U.S. Goverment over the fact that the Aeronica plane was downed with a sophisticated U.S.-made missile.

All these facts evince a dangerous escalation that threatens not only Nicaraguan sovereignty but also democratic stability and peace in Central America.

Taking these facts into consideration, the executive board of the Uruguayan Communist Party has decided to:

1. Express its full solidarity with the Sandinist revolution, and make a call to the Uruguayan workers and people in general to support all acts of solidarity with the Nicaraguan people.

2. Denounce U.S. Goverment involvement in the escalation of the contras' criminal activities.

3. Welcome the FSLN historical task of leading the Nicaraguan people in the establishment of a fair, democratically advanced, free, and sovereign society, and to congratulate it for defending the right to self-determination by dispensing with the abominable presence of Yankee imperialism, which was the main support of the Somoza dynasty during the long decades of criminal dictatorship.

4. Demand full compliance with the terms of the Esquipulas agreements and ask the Uruguayan Government to reinforce the Contadora Support Group, and to adopt the diplomatic measures leading to a peaceful solution of the Central American conflict.

Suriname

NPS Proposes Presidential Candidates

FL041740 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] A congress of the National Party of Suriname [NPS] yesterday proposed that party chairman Henk Aaron and VHP [Progressive Reformed Party] Jaggernath Lachmon become the candidates for the vice president and president of the republic, respectively.

The NPS yesterday called a special congress to discuss the question of candidacy for the president and vice president of the republic.

NPS Chairman Henk Aaron told our newsroom this morning that the congress' proposal must be discussed with the other partners in the Front for Democracy and Development.

The front, which won 40 of the 51 seats in the National Assembly, consists of the National Party of Suriname, the United Reformist Party [name as heard], and the KTPI [Indonesian Peasants' Party]

Soldiers Kill 7 in Pokigron on New Year's Eve

FL041903 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Surinamese soldiers have reportedly killed seven men in Pokigron on New Year's Eve. The men had been in Paramaribo, the capital, to make purchases. When they returned to Pokigron, they were detained by military guards.

The seven did not belong to Ronny Brunswijk's rebel group which had been fighting the military government in Suriname. The bodies of the seven have not been handed over to their families as yet.